

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educators)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
Certificate of Carol J. Jones)	
)	
Certificate # 161918)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 13, 2004. On March 25, 2004, the State Department of Education (Department) had the Dekalb County Sheriff's Office serve Ms. Carol J. Jones a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educators certificate (certificate). Ms. Jones received the notice, as evidenced by the Affidavit of Service. Ms. Jones did not request a hearing during the period allowed by law, and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, which was undisputed by Ms. Jones, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Jones's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Jones holds a valid certificate, and has thirteen years of teaching experience. Ms. Jones was under contract with Darlington County School District (District) for the 2003-2004 school year, as an eighth grade language arts teacher at Hartsville Junior High School. On October 27, 2003, the principal of Hartsville Junior High School, Darlington County Superintendent and the District Director of Personnel received a letter of resignation from Ms. Jones, effective November 25, 2003. In her letter Ms. Jones indicated that she was getting married and moving to Georgia. The District Superintendent wrote Ms. Jones on December 3, 2003, and stated that she would recommend a suspension of her certificate to the State Board.

On December 3, 2003, the Darlington County Board of Education voted to terminate Ms. Jones's contract of employment and file a complaint with the State Board seeking the suspension of Ms. Jones's certificate for breach of contract.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (1990). Unprofessional conduct includes breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is conclusive evidence supporting its decision to suspend Ms. Jones's certificate # 211807 for a period of one year from November 25, 2003 through November 24, 2004, on the ground of unprofessional conduct due to breach of contract. At the end of the suspension period if she wants her certificate reinstated, Ms. Jones may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification of the Department.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary E. Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

April 13, 2004